**Welcome to Mrs. Cioppa’s 7th Grade Life Science Class!**

Life Science, also known as biology, is the field of science that involves the study of living things, from simplest to most complex – how they came to be, the characteristics that differentiate each group, their structure, pattern of inheritance, and relationship with the environment.

**Curriculum**

The course curriculum has been aligned with the science courses in the 5th, 6th and 8th grades to meet each of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Science grades 5-8.

* Scientific Method = how we study living things?
* Characteristics of Living Things = what makes something living?
* Cell = what is the basic unit of living things?
* Genetics = why does the living thing look the way it does?
* Evolution = how has that living thing evolved or changed over the years?
* Classification of Living Things = how are living things grouped together?
* Ecology = how does the living thing interact with its environment?
* Diversity of Living Things (Plant Kingdom) = who are the living things?

**Signing Policy**

Students must get tests, projects, quizzes, homework or labs signed if the grade is below a 70C. Any D’s or F’s must be signed off by a parent or guardian.

**Attendance Policy/Make-Up Work**

It is important that a pupil be present each say that school is in session. The student who is absent loses the effectiveness of teacher presentation and material and class group discussion. “Make-up” work, while helpful, cannot match what has been missed. Make up work is the students’ responsibility. The day the student comes back from being out he/she must see me at the end of class, at lunch or after school for the work they have missed. The student has one day for every day absent to complete the make-up work.

**Grading/Homework Policy**

Test Grades/Projects 35%

Homework 10%

Quizzes/Labs 20%

Notebooks 15%

Classwork 20%

100% of MP grade

* The student can expect 1-2 tests per marking period.
* There will be a 10-15 minute quiz once a week.
* Homework is given when necessary to reinforce what is learned in class or to complete work that was not finished during class time. I usually do not assign homework on weekends unless it is necessary or it is a long term project.
* Some homework is graded and other assignments are simply recorded as √ or √- or √--.
* Homework is due the next class day.
* Late work will be accepted but, of course, for a lesser grade.
* All homework, projects, tests and quizzes will be posted on this website under homework or calendar.
* Finally, if you or your parent provides me with an email address I will be sending out reminders about upcoming quizzes, tests and projects (including rubrics).